

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a cell, comprising:
irradiating a living cell or a living tissue with a laser beam with 1-100 ~~m/cm~~² mJ/cm² of the energy density and 1-1000 mJ/cm² of the energy output through a hollow optical fiber filled with an inert gas; and
cutting off, removing or boring a cell wall or a cell membrane or an entirety of the cell wall thus irradiated;
wherein the cell is irradiated with the laser through reflection and condensing which are effected through a chip of quartz glass in which hydroxide groups have been introduced.
2. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the living cell or the living tissue is irradiated with the laser beam ~~has a~~ at a wavelength of 500 nm or less.
- 3-4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein irradiating further includes irradiating the cell through a surface of the quartz glass chip ~~is chip~~ coated with a metal.
6. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 5, wherein ~~the coating metal is~~ irradiating further includes passing the laser beam through the surface of the quartz glass chip coated with at least one metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, platinum, gold, palladium, and oxides thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the laser is at least one laser~~ irradiating is conducted with a laser selected from the group consisting of an YAG laser, an excimer laser, an Ar ion laser, a nitrogen laser and a nitrogen-excited laser.

8. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, ~~which further comprises~~ further comprising introducing a foreign ~~foreign~~ matter into the living cell and/or the living tissue through a laser-irradiated portion thereof after ~~irradiation~~ irradiating the living cell or the living tissue with the laser beam.

9. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~the introducing foreign matter is at least one~~ further includes introducing foreign matter selected from the group consisting of a genetic substance, a protein, an organelle, a physiologically active substance and an indicating agent.

10. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 9, wherein ~~the genetic introducing foreign matter includes~~ introducing a genetic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of a DNA, an RNA, an oligonucleotide, a plasmid, a chromosome, an artificial chromosome, an organelle DNA, and a nucleic acid analogue.

11-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ wherein irradiating further includes passing the laser gear through an inert gas is at least one gas selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen gas, an argon gas and a helium gas.

14. (Currently Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~a wall surface of the irradiating further includes~~ passing the laser beam through a hollow optical fiber is coated coated with a metal.

15. (Canceled).